

What is claimed is:

1. A method for a first healthcare provider to consult a second healthcare provider regarding at least one of diagnosis and treatment of a patient, the
5 method including the first healthcare provider requesting a consultation on a machine, and the second healthcare provider submitting a consultation on a machine.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the first healthcare provider requesting a consultation on a machine, and the second healthcare provider submitting a consultation on a machine together include the first healthcare provider requesting a
10 consultation on a first machine, and the second healthcare provider submitting a consultation on a second machine coupled to the first machine.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the first healthcare provider requesting a consultation on a first machine, and the second healthcare provider submitting a consultation on a second machine coupled to the first machine together
15 include the first healthcare provider requesting a consultation on a first machine, and the second healthcare provider submitting a consultation on a second machine coupled to the first machine via a third machine coupled to the first machine and to the second machine.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the first healthcare provider
20 requesting a consultation on a first machine, and the second healthcare provider submitting a consultation on a second machine coupled to the first machine via a third machine coupled to the first machine and to the second machine includes receiving the request for a consultation from the first machine at the third machine, storing the request for a consultation on the third machine, sending from the third machine a
25 communication to the second healthcare provider that the request for a consultation is awaiting action by the second healthcare provider, the second healthcare provider receiving the communication, and the second healthcare provider gaining access to the third machine to obtain the request for a consultation from the third machine.
5. The method of claim 4 further including the second healthcare
30 provider requesting a consultation on the second machine, and a third healthcare provider submitting a consultation on a fourth machine coupled to the second machine.

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6. The method of claim 5 wherein the second healthcare provider requesting a consultation on the second machine, and the third healthcare provider submitting a consultation on a fourth machine coupled to the second machine together include the second healthcare provider requesting a consultation on the second machine, and the third healthcare provider submitting a consultation on the fourth machine coupled to the second machine via the third machine coupled to the fourth machine.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the second healthcare provider requesting a consultation on the second machine, and the third healthcare provider submitting a consultation on the fourth machine coupled to the second machine via the third machine includes receiving the request for consultation from the second machine at the third machine, storing the request for consultation on the third machine, sending from the third machine a communication to the third healthcare provider that the request for consultation is awaiting action by the third healthcare provider, the third healthcare provider receiving the communication, and the third healthcare provider gaining access to the third machine to obtain the request for consultation from the third machine.

8. The method of claim 7 further including the third machine identifying the request for consultation as pending until one of the second healthcare provider and the third healthcare provider submits a consultation response.

9. The method of claim 4 further including the third machine identifying the request for consultation as pending until the second healthcare provider submits a consultation response.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein one of the second healthcare provider and third healthcare provider submitting a consultation response includes sending a communication from the third machine to the first healthcare provider that the consultation response is awaiting action by the first healthcare provider.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein the second healthcare provider submitting a consultation response includes sending from the third machine a communication to the first healthcare provider that the consultation response is awaiting action by the first healthcare provider.

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12. The method of claim 10 further including the third machine identifying the request for consultation as fulfilled when the first healthcare provider submits an indication of acceptance of the consultation response.

13. The method of claim 11 further including the third machine
5 identifying the request for consultation as fulfilled when the first healthcare provider submits an indication of acceptance of the consultation response.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting at least one of textual queries and textual statements.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein requesting a consultation
10 includes submitting at least one of still images and moving images.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting sounds.

17. The method of claim 2 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting at least one of textual queries and textual statements.

18. The method of claim 2 wherein requesting a consultation
15 includes submitting at least one of still images and moving images.

19. The method of claim 2 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting sounds.

20. The method of claim 3 wherein requesting a consultation
20 includes submitting at least one of textual queries and textual statements.

21. The method of claim 3 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting at least one of still images and moving images.

22. The method of claim 3 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting sounds.

23. The method of claim 4 wherein requesting a consultation
25 includes submitting at least one of textual queries and textual statements.

24. The method of claim 4 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting at least one of still images and moving images.

25. The method of claim 4 wherein requesting a consultation
30 includes submitting sounds.

26. The method of claim 5 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting at least one of textual queries and textual statements.

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27. The method of claim 5 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting at least one of still images and moving images.

28. The method of claim 5 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting sounds.

5 29. The method of claim 6 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting at least one of textual queries and textual statements.

30. The method of claim 6 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting at least one of still images and moving images.

10 31. The method of claim 6 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting sounds.

32. The method of claim 7 wherein request a consultation includes submitting at least one of textual queries and textual statements.

33. The method of claim 7 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting at least one of still images and moving images.

15 34. The method of claim 7 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting sounds.

35. The method of claim 8 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting at least one of textual queries and textual statements.

20 36. The method of claim 8 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting at least one of still images and moving images.

37. The method of claim 8 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting sounds.

38. The method of claim 9 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting at least one of textual queries and textual statements.

25 39. The method of claim 9 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting at least one of still images and moving images.

40. The method of claim 9 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting sounds.

30 41. The method of claim 10 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting at least one of textual queries and textual statements.

42. The method of claim 10 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting at least one of still images and moving images.

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43. The method of claim 10 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting sounds.
44. The method of claim 11 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting at least one of textual queries and textual statements.
- 5 45. The method of claim 11 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting at least one of still images and moving images.
46. The method of claim 11 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting sounds.
47. The method of claim 12 wherein requesting a consultation
10 includes submitting at least one of textual queries and textual statements.
48. The method of claim 12 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting at least one of still images and moving images.
49. The method of claim 12 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting sounds.
- 15 50. The method of claim 13 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting at least one of textual queries and textual statements.
51. The method of claim 13 wherein requesting a consultation includes submitting at least one of still images and moving images.
52. The method of claim 13 wherein requesting a consultation
20 includes submitting sounds.

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